

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 PM-09 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OMB-01 CG-00 AID-20 IGA-02

COA-02 EB-11 TRSE-00 RSR-01 DODE-00 /108 W
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P R 251815 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3552

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

COMICEDEFOR

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0421

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA MASS IC

SUBJECT: ICELANDIC INTEREST IN USG COAST GUARD CUTTER

REF: STATE 55693; REYKJAVIK 0373, 0418

1. DIRECTOR OF ICELAND COAST GUARD PETUR SIGURDSSON
CALLED ON ME THIS AFTERNOON AT REQUEST OF PRIME MINISTER.
SIGURDSSON SAID LOCAL PRESS IS HAVING A FIELD DAY RIDICULING

PRIME MINISTER ON HIS APPARENT INABILITY TO COPE WITH
BRITISH AND WEST GERMAN FISHING LIMITS VIOLATIONS. LARGEST DAILY
NEWSPAPER TODAY, FOR EXAMPLE, BLAMES PRIME MINISTER FOR AN
INEFFECTIVE COAST GUARD CRITICIZING HIM IN HIS DUAL CAPACITY
AS MINISTER OF JUSTICE IN CHARGE OF COAST GUARD AS WELL AS
PRIME MINISTER FOR NOT PROVIDING SUFFICIENT AUGMENTATION TO
PRESENT COAST GUARD FLEET. PRIME MINISTER ALSO UNDER STRONG
CRITICISM FROM OWN PROGRESSIVE PARTY AS WELL AS COMMUNIST-
DOMINATED PEOPLE' S ALLIANCE AND OPPOSITION PARTIES. SIGURDSSON
SAID COMMUNIST MINISTER OF FISHERIES JOSEFSSON HAS SUGGESTED
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PRIME MINISTER SEEK EXTRA CUTTERS FROM POLAND AND EAST GERMANY. HE SAID JOSEFSSON HAS CHECKED WITH THESE COUNTRIES AND STATED CUTTERS ARE AVAILABLE. PRIME MINISTER TRYING TO RESIST JOSEFSSON' S SUGGESTION AND ASKED SIGURDSSON TO MAKE ONE MORE ATTEMPT OBTAIN CUTTER FROM USG.

2. I REPLIED TO SIGURDSSON THAT ONE REASON FOR OUR INABILITY TO BE FORTHCOMING IS THAT OTHER COUNTRIES (NOT NAMED) HAVE ALSO REQUESTED USG SURPLUS CUTTERS. SIGURDSSON SAID PRIME MINISTER GETTING DESPERATE AND NO TELLING WHICH WAY HE MIGHT TURN IF HE CANNOT COME UP WITH SOMETHING POSITIVE BY OPENING OF PROGRESSIVE PARTY ANNUAL CONVENTION MAY 4.

3. SIGURDSSON ASKED WHETHER IT POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN A COUPLE SMALL FAST PATROL BOATS FROM USG FOR CLOSE- SHORE PATROL IF ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE OBTAIN CUTTER. I TOLD HIM I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK.

4. SIGURDSSON TOLD ME HE ALSO CHECKING ON AVAILABILITY OF A JAPANESE WHALING SHIP WHICH ALTHOUGH CUMBERSOME, HE COULD NEVER-THELESS CONVERT TO PATROL BOAT. GOI PRESENTLY USING AN ICE-LANDIC WHALING SHIP FOR THIS PURPOSE, BUT MUST RETURN IT TO OWNERS NEXT MONTH BECAUSE OF START OF WHALING SEASON.

5. WHILE IN MY OFFICE SIGURDSSON RECEIVED PHONE CALL ADVISING HIM OF A BRITISH TRAWLER CURRENTLY FISHING ONLY EIGHT MILES OFF SHORE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE REGARDING REQUEST STATED PARA 3. IF EVENTS REPEAT THEMSELVES, PRIME MINISTER WILL CALL ME FOR STATUS REPORT OVER WEEKEND OR MONDAY.
IRVING

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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